

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Michael E. Landry, *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/698,010

Filed: October 30, 2003

For: SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND
METHODS USING MINIMALLY INVASIVE
SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Attorney Docket No.: 5259-10700US02

Examiner: James L. Swiger III

Group Art Unit: 3733

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate of Electronic Filing:

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being electronically filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 10, 2007:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date of Deposit: September 10, 2007


Karen R. Smith

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action or a Notice of Allowance, and is accompanied by the Petition fee of \$180.00 as specified under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).

The following information is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 in accordance with applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56. This submission is not an admission that the documents cited herein are prior art as to the invention claimed.

The references submitted are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Review is respectfully requested, and the Examiner is asked to place his/her initials next to each reference listed on the form to indicate that the reference was considered. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(2), copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not provided.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate Petition fee of \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 01-0025. The Commissioner also is authorized to charge our Deposit Account any additional fees (or credit any over payments) that may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 in association with this communication for which full payment has not been tendered.

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Respectfully submitted,
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